The two cooperative societies in the fertilizer sector viz. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, (IFFCO) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, (KRIBHCO) have concluded wage revision for their non-executive staff.

Sponge Iron Plants in Orissa

2535. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sponge iron plants set up in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to set up some new sponge iron plants in that State;

(c) if so, the places identified for the location of the new sponge iron plants; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There are two sponge iron plants located in the state of Orissa.

(b) The Union Government do not propose to set up a new sponge iron plant in the State of Orissa.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

Pendency applications for Issuing OBC Certificates

536. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications for issuing Caste Certificate to persons belonging to OBC by Delhi Administration are pending for about six months in the New Delhi area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the pending cases for issuing OBC Certificates will be made upto date in all respects?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

मध्य प्रदेश में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों का खोला जाना

2537. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा:
श्री अजीत जोगी:

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के किन-किन जिलों में भारत सरकार कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र खोलने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के दमोह जिले के जनजातीय बहुत विकास खंड तेन्दूखेड़ा में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र स्थापित किया जायेगा; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह किस वित्तीय वर्ष में स्थापित किया जायेगा?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस. कृष्ण कुमार): (क) वर्ष 1995-96 में मध्य प्रदेश के रायगढ़, बेतल और रतलाम जिलों में कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों के खोले जाने की सम्भावना है बशर्ते की इसके लिए निधि उपलब्ध हो।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

All India Average Capacity Utilization of Steel Industry

2538. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the all India average capacity utilization of steel industry in India and what is the projected gap between the availability and demand for steel at the end of Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that per capita consumption of steel in India among the lowest in the world and far below the world average; and

(c) the factors inhibiting the growth of steel industry and its expansion plans and whether any overseas investor has offered to fianance a large sized steel unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Average capacity utilisation of steel industry in India, in terms of saleable steel, during 1994-95 was about 79% As against the projected demand (including demand for export of 24.14 million tonnes of finished steel at the end of Eighth Plan period i.e. 1996-97, the expected

production of finished steel is 23.77 million tonnes.

(b) India is among the countries having low per capita consumption of steel. In the year 1992, the per capita apparent comsumption of crude steel in India was about 22 kg. as against the world average of 143 kg.

(c) Higher input prices, poor quality of raw materials, technological obsolescence, outdated operational practices, and higher incidence of taxes and levies are some of the factors inhibiting growth of steel industry in India. A larger number of overseas investros have shown interest in financing steel units in India.

Research and Development in Agriculture

2539. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for research and development in Agriculture in the country particularly in the State of Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the research being carried out in different institutes in the country during the current year 1995-96 alongwith achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Expenditure figures in respect of ICAR are not maintained state-wise. However, total expenditure during the last three years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total
1992-93	355.46
1993-94	441.99
1994-95	480.90

(b) In the ICAR system, there are 88 Research Institutes / National Research Centres / Project Directorates / National Bureaus. The details of the research undertaken by them and the achievements thereon are contained in the Annual Reports of these Institutes.

Reservation in Promotions for OBCs

2540. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide reservation in promotions for Government employees belonging to OBCs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) This item is under consideration.

This item would have to be discussed with political parties to arrive at consensus in the matter.

Identification of tree Species for Obtaining Biopesticides

2541. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Reasearch Institute in Dehradun have indentified a large number of tree species and strains of tree species from which biopesticides can be obtained;

(b) if so, the details thereof with benefits to be taken from biopesticides can be obtained;

(c) whether some other research institutes at Dehradun and Jabalpur have developed biological control measures for controlling Babul defoliator using dipterous parasite;

(d) if so, the details thereof with benefits from such research;

(e) whether Government propose to take some steps to ensure availability of benefits of such researches to the people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun has identified 55 tree species having potential for biopesticides. Out of these, five plant species viz. Neem (**Azadirachta indica**), **Haldu** (**Adina cordifolia**), Karanj (**Pongamia pinnata**), Bhekal (**Prinsepia utilis**) and **Delbergia stipulacea** have been identified as most important for obtaining biopesticides. Biopesticides are cost-effective, environment friendly and biodegradable.